



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Anne Pope**

NEWS RELEASE

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BP Amoco Strengthens Policies Preventing Tobacco Sales to Minors

Attorney General Paul G. Summers announced today BP Amoco, one of the nation's largest oil companies, has agreed to adopt policies to keep tobacco out of the hands of minors as part of a multistate accord.

Summers said the agreement with BP Products North America, Inc., a wholly-owned marketing subsidiary of BP America, Inc., which is commonly known as BP Amoco, will "significantly raise the barriers to tobacco purchases by minors" at thousands of gas stations across the country .

As part of the agreement with Tennessee and 39 other states, BP Products will instruct clerks to check ID for tobacco customers who appear to be under 35. The company will also use video-tape systems to monitor compliance, program cash registers to aid clerks, emphasize tobacco compliance in hiring and training, and undertake numerous other measures.

"This agreement will go a long way in stopping youth from becoming addicted to tobacco," Attorney General Summers said. "Statistics show most smokers become addicted in their mid- or

early teens. Blocking youth access to tobacco can help break these patterns of addiction and disease. BP Products is to be commended for recognizing the importance of this issue and acting accordingly.”

Today’s announcement marks the third multi-state agreement with a nationwide tobacco retailer. Similar agreements were reached earlier this year with Walgreens and ExxonMobil. Combined, the agreements affect more than 33,000 retail outlets across the nation.

Under the agreement, BP Products will adopt a variety of practices and policies designed to reduce or eliminate underage tobacco sales at its approximately 900 company-owned stores, including adopting standards for hiring and training employees regarding sales of tobacco, checking identification of anyone under 35 and using security video-tape security video systems to monitor compliance; arranging for an independent entity to perform random compliance checks; eliminating self-service tobacco displays and prohibiting free tobacco distribution in stores. Other measures call and designating an employee to oversee compliance with the agreement.

BP Products also will strive to reduce tobacco sales to minors in more than 12,000 franchise stations that display the BP or Amoco name. All future franchise agreements will require these stations to prevent underage tobacco sales, and failure to do so will be considered grounds for terminating the franchise. There are more than 800 BP or Amoco franchise stations in Tennessee.